

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Further to the Examiner's Amendment to the claims set forth in the Notice of Allowance dated February 17, 2011, please cancel claim 8, and amend claims 1, 9 and 10, as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for producing a rod composed of a transparent plastic via extrusion of a plastic molding composition, wherein the process comprises:

dividing the plastic molding composition into a plastic molding composition 1 and a plastic molding composition 2;

extruding the plastic molding composition 1 as a plastic tube; and

extruding the plastic molding composition 2 as a plastic rod,

wherein the plastic tube and the plastic rod are discharged from the extruder and then introduced without contact with one another into a vacuum tank calibrator, wherein the plastic tube ~~rod~~ is heat conditioned in the vacuum tank calibrator so as to achieve dimensional stability, and wherein at about 20 cm after entry into the vacuum tank calibrator the plastic tube is filled in parallel with the plastic rod and fused together.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rod is composed of an uncolored polymethyl methacrylate having a transmittance of at least  $\tau_{D65}$  85%.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plastic molding composition is colored.

Claims 4-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the plastic tube and the plastic rod are discharged from the extruder and then introduced without contact with one another into the vacuum tank calibrator, wherein the plastic tube and the plastic rod are heat conditioned in the vacuum tank calibrator so as to achieve dimensional stability, wherein at about 20 cm after entry into the vacuum tank calibrator the plastic tube is filled in parallel with the plastic rod and fused together, and~~ wherein the rod is heat conditioned in the vacuum tank calibrator so as to achieve dimensional stability and then slowly cooled.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the plastic tube and the plastic rod are discharged from the extruder and then introduced without contact with one another into the vacuum tank calibrator, wherein the plastic tube and the plastic rod are heat conditioned in the vacuum tank calibrator so as to achieve dimensional stability, wherein at about 20 cm after entry into the vacuum tank calibrator the plastic tube is filled in parallel with the plastic rod and fused together, wherein the rod is~~ heat conditioned in the vacuum tank calibrator so as to achieve dimensional stability and then slowly cooled, and wherein the rod exhibits a uniform diameter when measured at a number of different cross-sectional points along the rod.